

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending in this application. Claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20 stand withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended. Claims 1 and 4 are amended to clarify the subject matter recited in those claims. No new matter is added. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20 have been previously withdrawn as drawn to a non-elected species. The features positively recited in claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20, depend from claim 4, either directly or indirectly, and, as such, inherit all of the features of independent claim 4. Therefore, upon allowance of claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17, rejoinder and allowance of claims 7-12, 15, and 18-20 are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during the June 16, 2009 telephone interview by Examiner Torres. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the telephone interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,068,081 to Capdepuy et al. ("Capdepuy"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a process to damp and filter the amplitude of mechanically-originated vibrations of a structure to be uncoupled, wherein an incident vibratory weight is filtered with damping by absorbing a filtered vibratory wave transmitted over a frequency and a mechanical load amplitude that is applied to the structure; and a plurality of suspension assemblies are all mounted in series between two elements of the structure with a damping device mounted in parallel to each suspension assembly of said plurality of suspension assemblies. Claim 4 recites similar features.

The Office Action asserts Capdepuy teaches the combinations of all of the features recited in at least independent claims 1 and 4. This analysis of the Office Action fails for at least the following reasons.

Capdepuy is directed to a method for reducing an amplitude of vibration and a pressure wave from a radiating surface and/or an incident surface of a material exposed to mechanical and/or acoustic vibration (Abstract).

Capdepuy teaches, in Fig. 3 and column 4, lines 32-48, an embodiment of structural units forming the structure of a material between incident surface 3 and radiating surface 5. Each of the structural units 8, which form a beam, is in contact with the incident surface 3 and radiating surface 5, and has two parts 9 and 10, which are inclined and curved in opposite directions to one another. Parts 9 and 10, together, form an angle. Structural units 8 are curved to be asymmetrical with respect to at least one parallel plane to the direction of an incident pressure wave. Part 9 of the structural unit forms an acute angle with incident surface 3, and part 10 of the structural unit is bode at its end according to an even radius. Structural unit 8 is repeated and combined, as many times as required, between surfaces 3 and 5, with a gap between each of the structural units defining cavities 11, which, like the structural units themselves, are asymmetrical.

In other words, Capdepuy merely teaches that structural units 8 are incorporated in a simple parallel device between two elements, incident surface 3 and radiating surface 5. Not all of the structural units 8 are mounted in series. Rather, there are multiple groups of structural units 8 that, for example in Fig. 3, show two separate rows of structural units 8.

Applicants representatives discussed with Examiner Torres during the June 16 telephone interview that Capdepuy cannot reasonably be considered to teach that all of the plurality of suspension assemblies are mounted in series between two elements of the structure with a damping device mounted in parallel to each suspension assembly of the plurality of suspension

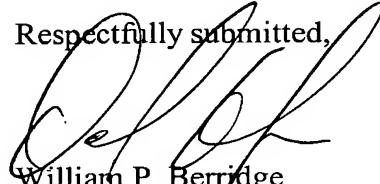
assemblies. Examiner Torres agreed during the telephone interview that it may be helpful to amend the claims to recite such a feature. Applicants amend the claims in the manner proposed by the Examiner.

For at least the foregoing reason, Capdepuy cannot reasonably be considered to teach the combinations of all of the features recited in independent claims 1 and 4. Further, dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 would also not have been anticipated by Capdepuy for at least the respective dependence of these claims on independent claims 1 and 4, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Capdepuy are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17, and rejoinder and allowance of withdrawn claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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